

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE-ITEM 69, ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

1. SUMMARY: THE THIRD COMMITTEE ON OCTOBER 7 VOTED ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS ON THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. ON THESE RELATIVELY "CLEAN" TEXTS--CONTAINING NO DIRECT REFERENCES TO ZIONISM-RACISM --A NUMBER OF WESTERN DELEGATIONS VOTED "YES". OUR INTENSIVE EFFORTS HAD SOME IMPACT, ESPECIALLY IN PERSUADING AUSTRALIA TO ABSTAIN. SURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, DENMARK AND IRELAND BROKE RANKS WITH EC-9 TO VOTE "YES". THE WESTERN DELEGATIONS THAT SUPPORTED ONE OR BOTH RESOLUTIONS HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN GIVING STRONG EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE. OVERALL, THE DEBATE ON THE DECADE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. THE ISRAELIS HAVE WELCOMED OUR STATEMENT IN THE DEBATE, WHILE NEITHER THE ARABS NOR AFRICANS SEEMED SURPRISED. ALTHOUGH THE ZIONSIM-RACISM ISSUE COULD STILL CAUSE SERIOUS TROUBLE IN OTHER CONTEXTS, THE TURMOIL AND BITTERNESS THAT MARKED LAST YEAR'S DEBATE HAS BEEN AVOIDED SO FAR.
END SUMMARY.

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2. THIRD COMMITTEE TODAY VOTED ON THE TWO RESOLUTIONS ON THE DECADE, OMNIBUS ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1989 (LX) ON THE PROGRAM OF THE DECADE AND ECOSOC 1990 (LX) ON THE GHANA CONFERENCE. THE VOTE ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION WAS 103-1 (ISRAEL)-16. THE US DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE VOTE. THOSE ABSTAINING WERE: AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, CAR, CHILE, COSTA RICA, FRANCE, FRG, GUATEMALA, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NICARAGUA, SWAZILAND, UK, AND URUGUAY. TWO MEMBERS OF THE EC-9, DENMARK AND IRELAND, BROKE RANKS AND VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION. (NORWAY, SWEDEN, NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRIA ALSO VOTED IN FAVOR).

3. THE DANES WERE SURPRISED THIS MORNING WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM COPENHAGEN TO VOTE "YES" ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION. THESE INSTRUCTIONS WERE THE RESULT OF AN UNFORTUNATE LOBBYING EFFORT BETWEEN COPENHAGEN AND OSLO. THE DANISH DELEGATION INFORMED US THAT THEY WERE LOBBYING HARD WITH THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATION HERE AND DECIDED TO PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS AND ASK THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER IN COPENHAGEN TO MAKE ONE FINAL APPROACH WITH THE NORWEGIANS. HE DID SO BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THE NORWEGIANS SUCCEEDED IN TURNING AROUND THE DANISH POSITION AND THE DANISH MISSION HERE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTE "YES" ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION. THE EC-9 ATTEMPTED TO GAIN TIME SO THAT THE DANISH MISSION COULD ASK FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THEIR INSTRUCTIONS. PRIOR TO THE VOTE, NETHERLANDS, SPEAKING IN BEHALF OF THE EC-9, ASKED FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF THE VOTE. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NOT MUCH JUSTIFICATION SINCE THESE RESOLUTIONS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED LAST MAY AND ITS WAS OBVIOUS THAT IF THE POSTPONEMENT QUESTION HAD BEEN PUT TO THE VOTE, THE MOTION WOULD HAVE FAILED. THE NETHERLANDS, THEREFORE, DID NOT INSIST ON A VOTE. IRELAND DECIDED TO GO ALONG WITH THE DANES AND ALSO CAST A "YES" VOTE ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION.

4. THE VOTE ON THE GHANA CONFERENCE RESOLUTION WAS 99-2 (CANADA, ISRAEL)-20. ABSTAINING WERE : AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM, CAR, COSTA RICA, DENMARK, FIJI, FRANCE, FRG, IRELAND, ITALY, LIBERIA, LUXEMBOURG, NETHERLANDS, NICARAGUA, NORWAY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SINGAPORE, SWAZILAND, SWEDEN, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UK. THE US DID NOT PARTICPATE.

5. PRIOR TO THE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION AS A WHOLE, AUSTRIA CALLED FOR A VOTE ON OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION. THIS IS THE PARAGRAPH ON WHICH THE EC-9 VOTED NO AT THE 60TH ECOSOC AND WHICH CONTAINES WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN INDIRECT REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379 EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. THE VOTE

ON THIS PARAGRAPH WAS BY SHOW OF HANDS AND WAS AS FOLLOWS:

82-15-13. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION ON THE NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WHICH VOTED "NO" ON THIS PARAGRAPH. THE SECRETARIAT INSISTS THERE WERE 15 VOTING "NO" WHILE US AND SEVERAL OTHER DELEGATIONS COUNTED 17 "NO" VOTES. VOTING "NO:" NICARAGUA, ISRAEL, IRELAND, NORWAY, NETHERLANDS, FRG, DENMARK, ITALY, LUXEMBOURG, LIBERIA, FRANCE, BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, UK, CANADA, CHILE, COSTA RICA.

6. THERE WERE MORE ABSTENTIONS ON THIS RESOLUTION THAN ON THE FIRST RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF THE LANGUAGE CONTAINED IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TWO WHICH ASKES FOR THE GHANA CONFERENCE TO "MOBILIZE WORLD PUBLIC OPINION AND ADOPT MEASURES LIKELY TO SECURE THE FULL AND UNIVERSAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UN DECISIONS AND RESOLUTIONS ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, APARTHEID, DECOLONIZATION AND SELF-DETERMINATION:". THE THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION WAS CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE "CLEANER" AND TO BE DEVOID OF EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT REFERENCE TO RESOLUTION 3379. THIS IS THE REASONING PUT FORWARD BY SWEDEN AND NORWAY FOR VOTING "YES" AND BY CANADA WHICH ABSTAINED ON THIS RESOLUTION.

7. DUE TO LACK OF TIME THE COMMITTEE DID NOT FINISH HEARING EXPLANATIONS OF VOTE AND WILL COMPLETE EXPLANATIONS FRIDAY, OCT. 8. THE US WILL REITERATE TS RESERVATIONS ON THE BUDGET QUESTION RELATED TO THE GHANA CONFERENCE AT THAT TIME.

8. COMMENT. FROM THE US POINT OF VIEW THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES OF POSITION WERE REFLECTED IN THE VOTES OF CANADA, NORWAY, AND DENMARK. EXPLANATION OF THE DANISH VOTE HAS BEEN GIVEN ABOVE. AS REPORTED EARLIER, THE CANADIANS WERE CONDERNED ABOUT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ZIONISM ISSUE INTO THE HABITAT DISCUSSION. THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY VOTED "NO" ON BOTH OF THESE RESOLUTIONS. THEIR CHANGE TO AN ABSTENTION ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION SHOULD BE TAKEN AS AN EFFORT ON THEIR PART TO SEPARATE THE ZIONISM ISSUE FROM THE DECADE AND FROM OTHER USSUES. IN ADDITION, THE NORWEGIANS PREVIOUSLY ABSTAINED ON BOTH OF THESE RESOLUTIONS BUT CHANGED TO A "YES" VOTE ON THE OMNIBUS RESOLUTION.

9. OVERALL, THIRD COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE DECADE WAS RESTRAINED AND WITHOUT THE TURMOIL OF LAST YEAR. WE KEPT THE RECORD CLEAR REGARDING THE US POSITION AND OUR STATEMENT IN DEBATE WAS RECEIVED CALMLY BY THE ARABS AND AFRICANS. THE VOTES SHOWED SOME EROSION AMONG WESTERN COUNTRIES. WHETHER THE ZIONISM--RACISM ISSUE WILL SURFACE

MORE POINTEDLY IN OTHER CONTEXTS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
END COMMENT.
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